Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the paragraph starting on page 9, line 21 and continuing to page 10, line 15:

The space is sufficiently long so that the polymeric materials forming the inner tubular member 21 and tip member 14 do not flow into contact with one another during fusion bonding of the balloon distal shaft section 27 thereto. The length of the space (i.e., the length of gap 31, or portion 32, or intermediate member 41) between the distal end of the inner tubular member 21 and the proximal end of the tip member 14 may vary depending on the desired catheter performance, the length of the balloon distal shaft section 27 and tip member 14, and the method used to bond to tip member. The length of the space is typically about 0.05 mm to about 0.75 mm, preferably about 0.05 mm to about 0.5 mm, ~~more preferably about 0.05 mm to about 0.5 mm and~~ most preferably about 0.1 mm to about 0.3 mm. In a presently preferred embodiment, the balloon distal shaft section 27 is about 1 to about 3 mm, preferably about 1.8 to about 2.2 mm. The tip member 14 is typically about 1 to about 5 mm, preferably about 2 to about 3 mm. In the embodiment illustrated in Figs. 2, 6 and 7, the tip member 14 proximal end is distal to the longitudinal center of the balloon distal shaft section 27. However, in alternative embodiments, the tip member 14 proximal end may be located in various other locations along the length of the balloon distal shaft section 27 (not shown).